

fuming the air we breathe as we do for purifying it; that is to say, we spend \$2 per capita for perfuming the air and only 20 cents per person for its purification. Every day it is estimated that automobiles, trucks and buses cast some 300,000 tons of pollution into the air. Some 600,000 tons of soot and fly ash blanket New York City in a year. Air pollution is already a serious matter in Maryland and in the rest of the country, and it will become a critical matter unless we move ahead rapidly to control it.

So, as I have suggested, it is most gratifying to me, as a public official and as a citizen of Maryland, to see this manifestation of interest in such matters as roadside beautification, urban, suburban and rural planning, architectural and structural design, the regulation of junkyards and outdoor advertising, the elimination of waste and litter and an attack upon water pollution and air pollution. It is my understanding, from your Chairman, that after a review of the discussions and reports of today's meeting, your Commission is to submit to the General Assembly its program for the improvement and the preservation of the scenic beauty of our State. I shall be very much interested in the program you submit and in the suggestions you make. I assure you, also, that I will give every consideration to each of the proposals you make to accomplish this high purpose.

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote these words: "In all ranks of life the human heart yearns for the beautiful; and the beautiful things that God makes are His gift to all alike." Never were truer words written or spoken. All of us have a deep-seated yearning for the things that are beautiful. We see around us the beautiful things that God has made and has left to us, all alike, as His gifts. Let us treat these gifts of our Creator with the reverence and the respect they are due. Let us pledge ourselves to the protection and the preservation of these gifts of God — the beauty with which we are surrounded.